THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no proposal presently under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Contracts for HBJ pipelines

103. SHRI J. P. GOYAL :
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Engineers India Limited, now evaluating the offers from international giants in pipelines construction for awarding contracts for the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline project have imposed restrictions and conditions on the Indian firms aspiring to become sub-contractors which are not being applied to the foreign sub-contractors ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to honour the assurance given by Government that due consideration will be given to the utilisation of indigenous manufacturing capabilities while awarding the said contract ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The tender conditions provide for this.

Indo-GDR Agreement

104. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minstier of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-GDR agreement has been signed to strengthen their cooperation in coal, lignite and power sectors in November, 1985 ; and

(b) if so, what are the main feat ures of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) The Protocol of the First Session of the Indo-GDR Working Group on Coal, lignite and Power was signed on 6-11-1985. The Working Group was entrusted with organising cooperation between the two countries in selected fields to rationalise and increase efficiency in the exploitation, processing and refining of coal and lignite by providing scientific and technological know-how, specialised technological equipment and engineering services. In regard to the power sector, the Indian side took note of the expertise available in GDR and agreed to give all necessary assistance in selecting collaboration partners in India.

Specific coal projects identified for collaboration are Niljai Opencast project in Western Coalfields Ltd. and Ramagundam II Opencast Proejct in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. The GDR side has submitted a techno-economic study for the exploitation operation of a Lignite Mine III at Neyveli and a hydrogeogical model for the Neyveli Basin. Cooperation with the GDR is envisaged in the Lignite projects at Palana in Rajasthan and Panandhro in Gujarat. The GDR side has also sent offers for the reconstruction of the briquetting process and modernisation of the existing Briquetting and Carbonisation (B & C) Plant at Neyveli. They have also made an offer for a feasibility study for the construction of a new B & C Plant, Final decisions on these offers would be made by Dec. '85/Jan. 86.